

FORAGES IN MY FARMING OPERATION

Jimmie Thompson

Beef Producer

Monroe County, KY

Jimmie is a life-long resident of Monroe Co. He and his wife Phyllis live in the Big Sulphur community. They have two children and five grandchildren, all of whom are involved in the beef operation. They have a 120 cow herd, consisting mostly of Angus-based cattle that are bred to Gelbvieh and Angus bulls. They currently own 450 acres and lease an additional 100 acres for pasture.

An innovator in grazing practices, he uses all available educational resources to improve his forage utilization. Jimmie has participated in the Master Cattlemen program, Cow College, and the KY Grazing School. He grows his own replacements, uses top quality performance tested bulls, and grows all of his hay. Rotational grazing is a staple of his forage program. He uses several forage species to meet his cattle's needs. These forage species include both cool and warm season grasses, clovers, and alfalfa. Jimmie manages his forages not only for his cattle, but also for the abundant wildlife on his farms.

Jimmie is a motivated leader in his community. He has just completed a two-year term as president of the Monroe Co. Cattlemen's Association. He was co-founder of the Monroe Co. Beef Alliance, a purchasing and marketing cooperative of thirty local beef producers. Jimmie was the 2003 Kentucky Forage Spokesman, and represented Kentucky at the American Forage & Grassland Council competition in Lafayette, LA.